

**MINUTES OF BISHOP'S HULL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT THE
FRANK BOND CENTRE, BISHOP'S HULL,
ON THURSDAY 11th APRIL, 2019**

Twelve members of the public attended. Mr Leach, Chairman of the Parish Council, was in the Chair.

1. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19th April 2018 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

2. To receive the Police Report

PCSO Wearmouth attended and gave his report. He explained that the two PCSO's cover a very large area. He gave the Clerk some crime prevention information for the Facebook page and noticeboards.

3. To receive the report from the Bishops Hull Flower Show

Amanda Gallacher representative of the Bishops Hull Flower Show was present. She advised that the Flower show will be held on Saturday 10th August. Ahead of the Flower Show the annual scarecrow competition will take place along with the hanging basket competition. In addition, a Flower show social event will be held on Friday 14th June. The Flower show is run by volunteers, so asked if anyone wished to help to get in touch.

4. To receive the report from St Peter & St Pauls Church

Nobody was able to attend from the Church so the Clerk read the attached report.

5. To receive report from representatives from Bishops Hull Hub regarding progress in providing a new hall

Richard Holland representative from the Hub was present and gave an update on the project. Report attached

6. To receive report from representatives from Bishops Hull Village Hall & Playing Fields Trust on providing a new Sports Pavilion

Paul Bulbeck Chairman of the Trust was present and gave an update on the project. The New pavilion is close to completion, with just a few snagging points. The conversion of the old changing rooms has commenced. The accessible toilets are delayed due to lack of funding. The Trust have invested £50,000 from Trust funds to the project. A further £40,000 - £50,000 still needs to be found to complete the project.

7. To receive report from the Frank Bond Trust

Carolyn Bulbeck Chair of the Frank Bond Centre was present and gave a report on the Frank Bond Centre – report attached

8. To receive the Parish Council Chairman's Report

The Chairman read the attached report:

9. HAVE YOUR SAY

A resident raised concerns over loneliness in the Parish and asked what measures are in place to tackle this?

He was advised that in the Community News the Parish Council will "signpost" Frank Bond Centre activities, Village Agent and other local initiatives.

The same resident asked what was being done to stop parents driving their children to school?

He was advised that this is a matter for the school, and other local schools run schemes to encourage children to walk to school. Cllr Hunt will raise these concerns at the next governors meeting.

Meeting closed at 7.45pm

Attached:

1. Church report
2. Bishops Hull HUB report
3. Frank Bond Centre report
4. Chairman's report

1. Report from St Peter and St Pauls Church

The plans for the Church Porch are coming along, slowly but steadily. Formal Planning Permission was granted in January 2019. Church Faculty application is already in and we await the outcome from the Diocesan Advisory Committee meeting in April 2019. As we have met all their requirements from their recent informal visit, I am hopeful that Faculty permission will be given. There are a number of 'conditions' that we needed to adhere to which the Architect has been able to incorporate, including reusing the 3 stone arches as the frontage. A Quantity Surveyor has been appointed to provide cost details and their report will support the Grant applications needed to help finance this project.

Once all the permissions are in place it will be the finance that will determine when we can seek tenders and start work. Hopefully that will not be too long happening and we look forward to re-opening the church to the community."

2. Bishops Hull Hub Project Update April 2019

Tenders for Construction

- Tenders for the new Hub construction have now been received and a tender report, (prepared by our Architects) has been sent to TDBC, (now Somerset West and Taunton Council), the Parish Council and our prospective funders.
- To summarise, six Contractors were invited to tender of which three agreed to tender, including our village contractor R&J Sweet. During the tender period one withdrew.
- The two remaining tenders received were:
 1. Corkish construction, £595,000, including 10% contingency and offering a saving of £29,854 with changes to the specification
 2. R&J Sweet £483,251, including 10% contingency and offering a saving of £35,781 with changes to the specification
- Our Architect concluded that there was little advantage in undertaking a price comparison of the tenders as R&J Sweet's omission of overheads and profit in their tender gave them an insurmountable advantage. Also, that given R&J Sweet's experience in this type of work, their tender is an acceptable one and that there should be no reason to doubt their ability to complete the work for the tender price.
- His recommendation is for the Hub Trust to consider the tender figure against the available budget and instruct accordingly.
- The tender figures confirm that R&J Sweet's tender represents excellent value for money due to the omission of overheads and profit.

- Our Quantity Surveyor has advised that a 5% contingency should be sufficient for our project and therefore if we accept R&J Sweet's proposed savings, with changes to the specification, the tender figure can actually be adjusted to **£419,102.50, including a 5% contingency**. This compares favourably with the estimated "at cost" figure of £439,000.
- The tender includes £69,500 of provisional sums (specified by the Architect), where we believe there could be a further saving of up to £10,000, with further negotiations on supplies and does not as yet allow for any other savings for voluntary labour, so a £400,000 target is still feasible.

Construction Funding and Grant Applications

- Currently the Hub has secured £273,000 from Section 106 and CIL funds, which is sufficient to construct the external building shell. Assuming a construction cost of approximately £420,000 (excluding possible savings), this leaves a sum of £147,000 to be funded from donations and grant applications.
- The Hub currently has the following applications in progress:
 1. National Lottery community fund - £75,000. In final stages awaiting acceptance of tender figure and confirmation of lease details for Church hall site.
 2. Bishop Foxes Educational Foundation -£30,000. Subject to a presentation of the proposals by the Hub to the foundation panel, but delayed, awaiting confirmation of lease details.
 3. Joseph Rank Foundation - £20,000. Awaiting decision.
- A further two applications for £35,000 are currently being prepared by the community Council for Somerset (CCS), but have been delayed awaiting confirmation of lease details.
- The above applications amount to £160,000, but cannot all be guaranteed so we intend to continue with our approach to the Hinkley C fund, in conjunction with the Village Hall and Playing field Trust, to try and meet their requirements to justify a grant for our village projects.

Professional Fees

- In addition to construction costs we need to fund professional and statutory fees for Building Regulation Approval and professional fees for the completion of the lease agreement and for the management of the building contract during the construction programme.
- We have to date paid £19,800 in professional fees and estimate that we will need to pay a further £5,500 to cover the building regulations and our legal costs for the lease. We have raised sufficient funds to meet these costs only. We anticipate that the building contract management fees, estimated at £10,000, can be covered by our grant applications as part of the construction works.

Fundraising

- To counter any shortfall in grant funding we continue to hold fundraising events and to seek to donations to finance the Hub project. We would like to thank the village community for supporting our fundraising events which typically make £120 to £200 per month.
- Recent and future fundraising events include the successful wine tasting evening in March, which is to be repeated in the near future, and the forthcoming Easter egg hunt on 13th April. Also, the continuing Hub Café, next open on 11th May.

- Our continuing “Buy a Brick” initiative is gradually gaining momentum and we would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the 11 bricks sold to date. We hope the start of work on site will encourage further donations to the scheme.

Future Programme

- Our future programme and grant applications now depend on the agreement of a lease for the church hall site, with the Parochial Church Council (PCC), that will meet the conditions of the funding organisations, including Somerset West and Taunton Council and the Parish Council or an alternative arrangement. Negotiations are currently underway.

3. Frank Bond Centre Report

For those who are not aware of the origins and the ethos of the Frank Bond Centre, it began 35 years ago. Frank Bond was a local businessman who when he died, he left his home and the proceeds from the sale of land to be used to create and run a Centre for the benefit of the older residents of the local community.

Over the years, to comply with his wishes, the Centre has developed and a members Club created. Open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. The Frank Bond Limited Charitable Trust was established.

The Centre and the finances are managed by a board of voluntary Trustees.

A wide range of activities are available throughout the week providing opportunities to remain socially, physically and mentally active. Each activity being run by a volunteer.

We have seen a considerable increase in numbers joining our Art Group, Bridge groups, and Singles group. The Trustees are currently looking at ways of improving the conservatory to make it a more usable space throughout the year. This will of course prove very costly.

Last year we had a canopy constructed over the main entrance to provide better protection from inclement weather. We were grateful to receive a grant from the Parish Council towards the cost.

Whilst all activities are open to members, we are always keen to encourage non members to come and enjoy the Centre. We run a weekly cafe open to all and recently have been delighted to welcome residents from Netherclay nursing home. We also have a monthly lunch open to all.

Of course, running the Centre is an expensive business, The Trustees insist that the annual costs of running the Centre has to be met by annual income. This is done in a number of ways, membership fees, which we aim to keep as low as possible, fund raising activities, income from renting out the flat, rental income and where possible grants, sadly these are now increasingly difficult to get and due to changes in criteria we no longer qualifying for an Active Living Grant.

Our ethos at the Centre is that everyone must be made to feel welcome and participate in whichever activity appeals to them. We believe very strongly in the importance of friendship and our aim at the Centre is to facilitate this within the local community.

4. Annual Parish Council - Thursday 11 April 2019 - Chairman's Report

Welcome to the annual Parish Meeting and my 3rd Annual report. And what an interesting year it has been, ending as it does with local elections next month.

I am delighted that the majority of our Members from the last council term have decided to continue on the council, I was hoping to have sufficient nominations to have a Parish Council election for no other reason than to raise the profile of the Council in the community; that was not to be. However, by taking the positive steps we did, in actively promoting the election, it affords the Council an increased level of legitimacy in local community, and negates any comments that we are acting akin to a 'secret society'. Also, it has provided one new member who will join the Council in May, Matt Tucker. That puts our parish in a healthier position than some others in relation to the number of councillors, but we still need one more to take us up to our full complement of 11.

Moving the location of the Parish Council meetings from the Frank Bond Centre to the less salubrious surrounds of the Church hall was also part of the strategy to be seen to be more accessible. After only two meetings here there has already been an increase in the number of members of the community attending the meetings, 14 at the last meeting.

Moving on, two people, that I can only describe as stalwarts of the Council have chosen not to continue as Parish Council Members- Laetitia Kelly and John Hamer; their experience and commitment will be difficult to replace. John & Laetitia have been members since 2011 and during their time with the council they have both literally doted the I s and crossed the T s of the community news, with John being the organising master mind of the distribution network and a knowledgeable source of information on planning issues.

Laetitia has been involved in many areas including the supporting the natural environment and meeting with Highways staff when they have visited the parish.

For the commitment that both have made over 8 years, a huge thankyou on behalf of the parish, things would not have run so smoothly without you.

Thanks for all the organisations that have taken the time to come along and give updates on their activities and progress that they have made over the last year.

This year has seen the number of Trusts with in the parish increase by one with the formation of the Friends of Netherclay woodland last year. The Council has managed to provide either direct monetary grants or promises of CIL monies to each one of the trusts and we would hope to continue to give what support we can to help develop the amenities provided by each Trust over the next 12 months.

And the council is still committed to subsidising the Netherclay foot bridge repairs which are due sometime to ensure that bridge stays open and in good repair.

In addition, we have employed a company to attempt to cure the long-standing issues of invasive weed at the allotments.

The Parish Council Face book and web site page continues to provide an information service to the community, members of the Face Book page have now exceeded 300, just under 100 more than this time last year.

We have also supported the footpath walkers this year by funding training to allow them to safely keep the paths clear for everyone's enjoyment.

Darren our street cleaner has continued to provide an excellent service working in partnership with DLO, when the situation requires, to achieve a joined-up service delivery. As a council we would like to achieve more joined up service delivery with the District and County council on a range of matters, which has been muted by them but not progressed.

My continued thanks, on behalf of the community, also go to the Members of the Council who have supported the Parish with their time, attending meetings and dealing with particular responsibilities or sitting on advisory groups and supporting the various village trusts and organisations. The Parish Council has had some challenging decisions to make in the last 12 months.

We have been fortunate to be supported by our District Councillors Ian and Julia and our County Councillor and Parish Council vice chairman John Hunt and in the vice chairman role has been a great support to me and a good sounding board. Neither Julia nor Ian are standing at next month's District Council elections in Bishops Hull, and I thank them on behalf of the Parish for their efforts, and we can only trust we continue to get the same degree of active support from the candidates elected to the enlarged Bishops Hull and Comeytrove ward; Ian and Julia will be a hard act to follow.

I would like to add my special thanks to our Clerk Helen, without her hard work and excellent support I would not be able to carry out the duties of chairman and the council would not operate in the calm and efficient manner it does.

Just to finish I would like to run through a list of some other funding decisions made this year.

Training for Councillors

Allotment charges and Maintenance, rent and water bills

Parish Remembrance Day wreath

Continued yearly Bench maintenance

Overgrown vegetation removal

Replacement ornamental tree at Rumwell

Provision of new dog bin in Mountway Road and Parish wide bin emptying.

When required we also make representations for action to others, the most notable example of this is the ongoing battle with Persimmon to discharge their responsibilities in relation to Kinglake and Abbeyvale, whilst there is only limited success with them, the council will continue push for a full resolution of outstanding issues.

All of the things mentioned, no other organisation would get involved in, whilst they are small issues it is those small issues that no one else can be bothered with which improve the quality of life in the village.

I would encourage anyone who may find some of these issues and challenges I have mentioned interesting, to think about being a Parish Councillor as well still have one vacancy for new council in May; and if you require any information to contact the Clerk Helen or any of the councillors.